

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1 and 4-8 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to define the invention more clearly and to incorporate limitations that previously were in canceled claims 2 and 3. Claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Claim 5 has been amended to define the wire guide as being formed unitarily with the cover.

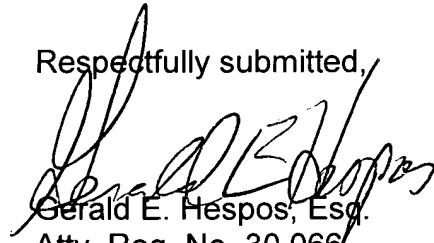
The specification also has been amended to clarify the use of the numeral 21 in paragraph 0043-0047.

Counsel thanks Examiner Harvey for the courtesies extended during the interview on August 18, 2005. Examiner Harvey explained that Examiner Luebke is on special assignment and he has assumed responsibility for this case. Examiner Harvey indicated that he reviewed the application and the prior prosecution history. He concurred with the rejection of at least claim 1 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Douty et al. However, counsel and Examiner Harvey discussed dependent claims 2-4 in greater detail during the course of the interview. Examiner Harvey then discussed those dependent claims with Primary Examiner Ta. Based on the discussions between counsel and Examiner Harvey, it was concluded that an Amendment that incorporated most of the features of dependent claims 2 and 3 into claim 1 might be received more favorably. It was agreed that the applied art does not appear to suggest the guide and the accommodation concavity set forth in claims 2 and 3 for both guiding and protecting the locking piece after the locking piece has engaged the corresponding engaging projection.

Claim 1 has been amended in the manner discussed during the interview. It is believed that amended claim 1 is patentable over the prior art.

Independent claim 5 then was discussed during the interview. Counsel originally thought that the Examiner was comparing the elements 72 of Schnell to the claim wire guides. However, Examiner Harvey correctly noted that the rejection was relying upon the element 24 of Schnell. The reference numeral 24 of Schnell refers to the inner surface of the snap nut adaptor 12. This adaptor 12 necessarily must be formed separately from both the housing and the cover. Additionally, this adaptor 12 necessarily must be mounted at the end of the conduit connector 14 opposite the conduit. Claim 5 has been amended to define this aspect of the invention more clearly. In particular, the electric wire guide of amended claim 5 is defined as being unitary with the wire cover and previously was defined as being substantially adjacent the lock which is at an end of the cover remote from the housing. In contrast, the nut of Schnell cannot be unitary with the conduit connector and must be at the end of the conduit connector opposite the locks that engage the conduit. The Schnell reference would have to be redesigned completely to be brought closer to the claimed invention. Nothing in Schnell or the secondary references suggests such a redesign.

Respectfully submitted,



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